



<http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov>

How to avoid being refused unnecessarily

Applying for an immigrant visa comes down to reading all the fine print carefully. When you come across anything in your instructions that is not clear to you, ask the Consulate before coming in for your appointment. You cannot ask too many questions.

We can be reached by phone from Monday through Friday, from 8:30 A.M. to 12:00 noon, and by e-mail at ImmigrantVisasAMS@state.gov. Make sure to mention your case number (AMSetc....).

The most common pitfalls requiring the consular officer to initially refuse your application and requiring you to visit the Consulate yet another time, involve missing document or wrong versions of documents. This means your application will be refused under section 221(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. This means also you will have to come back, by appointment, on another day, determined by the Consulate.

You can easily avoid this by bearing in mind the following:

- Always bring original documents*. Double check at home if a document is an original, with original seal and/or signature. Copies can be of deceptively good quality these days but we must see an original before we can accept a photocopy.
- Make sure you have the right version of a document. Dutch civil documents for instance, must come from the Civil Registry Office - *Burgerlijke Stand*. Excerpts from the basis or persons administration - *basis- of persoonsadministratie* - are not acceptable.
- Dutch divorce certificates must also be excerpts from the Civil Registry Office. When married and divorced in the Netherlands you can get an international version. When married elsewhere but divorced in The Netherlands you can get only a Dutch version. Either one is acceptable. Bring divorce certificates for all previous marriages.
- Sworn translations into English are required for all documents not in English or Dutch. No matter how little information a document contains, the sworn translation into English is an absolute requirement.
- Financial support: Proof of financial support is required to convince the consular officer you will not become a public charge in the U.S. Family based immigrants must provide an I-864 Affidavit of Support, completed by their petitioner. Joint sponsors must use the exact same I-864 form. Form I-864 is either sent to NVC or presented at the final interview.
- K visa applicants and Diversity Visa applicants use either an I-134 Affidavit of Support, or proof of own financial means, e.g. bank statements, proof of assets, etc. K and DV applicants cannot use the I-864.
- Employment based immigrant visa applicants must present a recent job offer from their petitioning company in the U.S. The job offer must be on company letterhead paper, state that the position is still available and indicate what salary is offered. The job offer must be notarized in the U.S.

*If an original document was sent to the National Visa Center you do not have to bring another original.

When presenting original documents, always present also a plain photocopy. The original and copy will be compared, the original returned to you and the copy will become part of your visa.

Prepare to be without your passport for a few days. We need this time to print the visa, prepare the visa package and send this and your passport to you by registered mail. For this purpose you must bring sufficient postage, either in stamps or the special registered mail sticker available from the Dutch mail. An envelope is not required.